

LIBERAL LAWS FOR CUBA.

WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED SINCE THE CLOSE OF THE TEN YEARS' WAR.

THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT TO ISSUE A COMPILATION OF COLONIAL LAWS, SHOWING REFORMS HAVE BEEN EXTENDED TO THE ISLAND—AWAITING THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

Washington, May 3.—Since the passage by both houses of Congress on April 6 last of the Senate concurrent resolutions declaring that a state of war existed in Cuba, and that, in the opinion of Congress, the President should recognize the belligerency of the Cubans and tender his good offices to Spain to bring about a recognition of the independence of the Cuban Republic, no overt action has been taken by the United States, so far as is admitted, unless the appointment of so prominent a personage as ex-Governor Fitzhugh Lee as Consul-General to Havana can be so regarded. There is a widely prevailing impression that General Lee will go to his post of duty in the double capacity of Consul-General and Special Commissioner empowered to report directly to the President as to the exact condition of affairs in Cuba. This impression has been deepened by the protracted conferences which General Lee held with Secretary Olney and Mr. Cleveland yesterday.

Meanwhile considerable interest is felt as to the probable course of the Spanish authorities. The Queen of Spain's speech, to be delivered at the opening of the Spanish Cortes at Madrid on Monday, May 11, is expected to outline definitely the Cuban policy of the Government. It is awaited with considerable interest here, especially as informal assurances are believed to have been given to the Administration that to Cuba is to be tendered almost as great a degree of autonomy in purely domestic affairs as the Dominion of Canada now enjoys in its relations with Great Britain.

The reform measures for the civil government of Cuba promulgated by the royal decree of March 15, 1895, which were not promptly put into operation because, as it is asserted, the present revolution prevented the necessary local elections being held to provide the officials named in the decree, are expected to be enforced without much further delay, now that elections for the Cortes have ostensibly been held throughout Cuba. Supplementary to these laws, liberal legislation by the new Cortes is also expected by those well informed as to the Spanish programme.

At the same time the statutory progress of Cuba toward liberal government since the close of the Ten Years' War is to be shown by an official compilation of the colonial laws, which is now in course of publication. This compilation discloses the fact that in the treaty of El Zanjón, which terminated that war in 1878, the insurgents stipulated only for the freedom of those slaves who had served in their ranks. The law of February 13, 1880, put an end to slavery in the island, declaring all, without distinction, to be free, minors, however, to remain under "patronage" until 1888, when even that feature was to be abolished. Two years before that time expired the negroes were set at liberty by the decree of October 7, 1886, and the last vestige of slavery was obliterated.

The Spanish constitution of 1876 was promulgated in the island on April 7, 1881. All public liberties and the rights of citizenship then enacted in Spain were thereby granted to Cuba, involving the radical change in its political autonomy that laws were thenceforth enacted for it by the representatives of the nation, whereas the island had previously been governed by direct orders from the Crown. Since that time Cuba has been represented in the National Cortes by its Senators and Representatives.

Provision for the enforcement in Cuba of the Penal Code of the peninsula was made by royal decree of May 23, 1879, of the Civil Code by decree of July 21, 1889, of the law concerning civil procedure, by decree of September 1, 1889, and by decree of October 15, 1888, the law of criminal procedure was amended so as to require prosecutions to be conducted orally and in public, instead of by written examinations in private—an important measure of reform which had only just been established in Spain herself.

The Spanish Code of Commerce was extended to Cuba on January 28, 1886, and, in addition to the laws of minor importance, was made operative on August 16, 1878, and that of landed property on May 16, 1879, and as amended on July 14, 1883.

Most important, probably, has been the development of the principal political laws following upon increased liberty guaranteed by the Constitution of 1876. The law of June 15, 1880, regulating the right of meeting as proclaimed in the Declaration of the Cortes of 1808, and that of June 1, 1881, for the freedom of the press, were extended to the island on April 7, 1881. When that law was amended on liberal lines in Spain, June 26, 1880, in addition to liberties granted to Cuba on November 11, 1880, this statute maintained that the provisions of the common law were sufficient to punish offences of the press, and gave the ordinary courts full jurisdiction of the press, without providing for the religious toleration guaranteed by the Eleventh Article of the Constitution, was proclaimed on November 13, 1886. The provincial and municipal organizations of the colonies were to conform with those of the Peninsula June 21, 1878.

Reforms in the right of suffrage have been difficult of accomplishment wherever the negro race is in the majority, but the law concerning voters in elections for Cuban representatives in the Cortes, promulgated on December 27, 1892, provides that every citizen twenty-five years old who pays the sum of \$5 to the State treasury, or who has been engaged in some industry or profession, or who has been employed by negroes as well as white persons in Cuba. In this law are likewise provisions which secure the representation of the minority.

The Cuban budget, it is shown, has been reduced from \$46,000,000 for the fiscal year 1873-74, the closing of the last war, to a little more than \$23,000,000 for 1893.

The system of civil marriage in Cuba and Spain, it is asserted, could not be made exactly alike, because direct taxes are repugnant to Cubans, especially the tax on land, which is the basis of the Spanish budget. The direct tax on rural property in Cuba is 2 per cent, while in Spain it ranges from 17 to 20 per cent. As revenue had to be raised in Cuba the income was sought from customs duties, the system of excise duties in Spain was put into effect. Many Spanish industries had to be sacrificed in order that Cuban sugar could continue to find its chief market in the United States.

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PEACEMAKING NOT EASY.

AN INTERESTING DISPATCH FROM CALEB CUSHING TO HAMILTON FISH.

THE AMERICAN MINISTER TO SPAIN POINTED OUT TO THE SECRETARY WHY HIS EFFORTS AT MEDIATION WERE UNSUCCESSFUL.

SPAIN ITSELF AS BADLY OFF AS CUBA.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, May 3.—One of Caleb Cushing's dispatches to the State Department, written in the latter days of his service as United States Minister to Madrid, may be of interest at this time. Secretary Fish and Mr. Cushing had been carrying on an important correspondence relating to Cuban affairs, the duty of Spain to institute reforms, and the great interest of this country in having peace restored to the island. Mr. Cushing's dispatch was written on June 11, 1876. A short time before this Mr. Fish had spoken independently of the situation. Mr. Cushing said:

Will you permit me to make some observations of a consoling tendency in reference to the non-success of your earnest efforts to ameliorate the condition of things in Cuba:

1. You encounter, in the first place, the indisposition of either party to the contest in Cuba to listen to the counsels of wisdom and friendship. It is the prevailing condition, described by a late writer in the following words:

"There are conjunctures in history in which reason and the attempt at persuasion fail. Where opposition is irreconcilable, where each party is striving heart and soul for an object which the other looks upon as ruin and ignominy, the ruler must show his power to rule; the subject must show his power to win independence. In such a case, the sovereign or the rebellious subjects could be persuaded to yield to reason—neither the one nor the other party had been vanquished."

We in the United States have possessed parliamentary institutions for more than three centuries—not one only, as might be inferred from the rejoicings of the late Fourth of July.

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With enlightened zeal you have labored tirelessly for the peace and welfare of Cuba and of Spain, and for the welfare of the world. You have had to encounter impediments of moral impossibility in the nature of things.

Now has there been a balance in Cuba? There have been rebellions in Cuba, guerrilla warfare, burning, sackings of towns, military executions, deportations, and the like. But, on the other hand, there have been reforms of suffrage, military domination of Captain-General. So all these things have been done, and yet, after all, the situation is not what you desire. It is only because you have had to encounter impediments of moral impossibility in the nature of things.

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SOME ANTI-MCKINLEY VIEWS.

J. S. CLARKSON THINKS THE OHIO MAN MAY YET BE BEATEN.

HE CONCEDES ONLY 235 VOTES TO MCKINLEY ON THE FIRST BALLOT.

Washington, May 3.—Among the Republicans in Washington to-day are Samuel Fessenden, member of the Republican National Committee for Connecticut, and James S. Clarkson, member for Iowa. They had conferences with Senators Quay and Allison, and other friends. This evening Mr. Clarkson was asked: "Has McKinley a majority of the delegates already, and what of the claim that he will be nominated by acclamation?"

"He has not nearly a majority yet, nor will he, in my judgment," said Mr. Clarkson, "enter the convention with a majority. Indeed, he will be shorter of a majority on the first ballot at St. Louis that Blaine was in the emotional year of '76, Grant in '80, or Sherman in '88, when the latter in a field of fourteen candidates voted for the first ballot had 229 votes. He will not be nominated by acclamation, because I can say positively that Allison, Quay and Morton will remain in the contest, and so surely will Reed, and I judge so will Bradley and Cullom. Allison has not the least idea of withdrawing, nor Iowa any idea of giving up the fight. I believe this is true of the other candidates and their States."

"McKinley will fall from 80 to 100 votes short of enough to nominate at the start, and the field will represent from 225 to 550 votes. By the field I mean Allison, Reed, Quay, Bradley, Morton and Cullom, already suggested, and such other available men as Harrison, Lincoln, Foraker, Hobart, Davis and General Tracy, of New-York."

Mr. Clarkson further expressed the opinion that the field would hold firm. Referring to the allusion to General Harrison being in the available field of candidates, Mr. Clarkson said: "In one respect Harrison would give the earliest certainty of any one who could be nominated, for the day he should be nominated the country would know exactly what his policy as President would be on tariff and exactly what it would be on finance, and this would quickly bring confidence and good times behind it."

Mr. Clarkson considers General Grover's tables "grossly inaccurate," and further says: "The result in Illinois has been exaggerated to McKinley's benefit, and Grover claims it as practically solid, whereas it will take the first ballot at St. Louis to show whether it will be a majority for McKinley or a majority against him. Many more mistakes could be pointed out, but these are samples of the rest."

Mr. Clarkson's approximate table of the first ballot divided between McKinley and the field, and the unsettled contest so far as the delegates have yet been elected, figures up from a total of 918 delegates, 236 for McKinley, 403 for the field, 31 contested, and 150 for Grover. Mr. Clarkson remarked: "By the rules of the party, all these contests will first be heard by the National Committee, which makes up the roll of delegates to the National Convention. Each State in the territorial convention elects a member of the committee on Credentials, and the contestants are heard again before this committee. The result will be a final decision, and the contestants will be seated in the convention. So there will be three careful examinations of all these contests, insuring the fairest decision at last."

"What about the reports as to the National Committee, and how it stands, and how these contests will be heard?"

"The National Committee is made up of good and trained Republicans, the most of them of long service and all of them careful of the party interest and the welfare of the country. They are not so often called 'the National Committee' as they are 'the National Committee.' While a majority of the National Committee doubtless prefers some other candidate from personal choice and party interest, it is safe to say that they will give a fair hearing to all contestants. It is the duty of the National Committee to hear all contestants, and to report to the convention. The result will be a final decision, and the contestants will be seated in the convention. So there will be three careful examinations of all these contests, insuring the fairest decision at last."

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Silver Forks and Spoons of Sterling Standard, 925-1000 fine, of good weights and most desirable patterns, at \$1.10 per ounce.

THEODORE B. STARR

206 Fifth Ave., Madison Square.

GEN. GROSVENOR'S FIGURES.

HE NOW PLACES MCKINLEY'S STRENGTH AT 495 VOTES.

WHEREIN HIS ESTIMATE DIFFERS FROM THE TRIBUNE'S—THE EXPRESSIONS OF POPULAR DESIRE IN VERMONT AND ILLINOIS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, May 3.—Representative Grosvenor gave out to-night a very full statement of the results so far reached in the contest for the control of the Republican National Convention at St. Louis. He said:

It will be remembered that on the former occasion I stated that May 1 would show McKinley with a majority of the delegates elected. May 1 has come, and my prediction has been verified. While the convention has not yet produced a startling number of delegates for any one, yet there did come to the campaign some very remarkable and to many minds unexpected results. The endorsement of McKinley by Vermont marked the existence of an active McKinley sentiment which had for a long time been manifest to intelligent observers in all the States of New-England. The outbreak of popular sentiment in Illinois, which overwhelmed the party organization of that wonderfully organized State and swept away the plans of the bosses, and overturned the calculations of everybody, indicated that the tide, which it was fondly hoped by many would be arrested and possibly turned back, is in reality a powerful and sweeping force, the echo of Vermont was responded to by the triumphant shout of McKinley's friends in Arizona, and the result was a marked increase in the McKinley vote in Illinois. Like causes effect like results in politics, and where an election is thus carried by the overwhelming popular sentiment against all organized forces in one State, it is always fair to presume that the result will follow in other States. The present condition of the McKinley vote is as follows:

Alabama 18 Arkansas 10 Florida 8 Georgia 22 Illinois 29 Indiana 22 Iowa 12 Kentucky 11 Louisiana 10 Maryland 12 Michigan 13 Minnesota 18 Missouri 15 Nebraska 16 New-Jersey 16 New-Mexico 4 New-York 4 Ohio (not elected) 4 Oregon 4 Pennsylvania 4 South Carolina 17 South Dakota 8 Texas 12 Tennessee 23 Utah 11 Virginia 24 West Virginia 4 North Carolina 6 Vermont 8 Indian Territory 2 Total 495

Here is a grand total of 495 votes. The Tribune of this morning gives McKinley 429, and the Chicago Times-Herald 429. The Tribune of this morning gives McKinley 429, and the Chicago Times-Herald 429. The Tribune of this morning gives McKinley 429, and the Chicago Times-Herald 429.

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